

New York Tribune.

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Straining the Tradition of German Military Efficiency.

Mr. Herman Ridder has decided to publish in the "Staats-Zeitung" a series of articles in English entitled "The War Situation Day by Day." That is a sensible move, since it will open to English-speaking readers here a source of German news and opinion, and make it possible to compare German comment and criticism with the comment and criticism in the American newspapers printed in English, of the "unfairness" of which many German-Americans complain.

Judging from the tone and matter of the first article we think it will be found that there is not a very serious clash between the comments of Mr. Ridder and those of the more intelligent writers of the non-German press. The same facts have to be dealt with—and from the same sources—and the comment discloses only a very natural variation in the point of view. We are glad to quote this interesting extract from Mr. Ridder's article:

It is very difficult to forecast the outcome of what may prove to be the greatest war in the history of mankind. There is no reason to assume that Germany will win any more than that it is a foregone conclusion that the allies will defeat the German and Austrian combination. The great machine which in 1866 crushed Denmark in 1864, Austria in 1866 and France in 1870 is again under way, and it only remains to be seen whether the modern engines of destruction can check the massed attack of the most wonderful infantry that has ever marched on a battlefield.

That is probably the popular view of the German military machine, outside Germany as well as inside. It is founded on the tradition of success which Moltke created. Yet it should be remembered that a tradition cannot survive indefinitely without challenge. It must vindicate itself again and again, under adverse as well as under favorable circumstances. It is forty-three years since the German military machine was last tested, and it remains to be seen whether it is still equal to turning out victories such as it once won over the Danes, the Austro-Hungarians and the French. The Prussian army helped to crush Denmark in 1864. But it had the co-operation in that war of the Austro-Hungarian army and of the forces of the minor German states. The Danes were hopelessly outnumbered and fought only to maintain their honor.

Prussia defeated Austria-Hungary, Hanover and the South German States in 1866, in a war lasting seven weeks. The rapidity of Moltke's movements insured victory over the disorganized and unready forces of the minor states, and Sadowa was won chiefly because the Austrians were so poorly led. The Austrian defence was half-hearted. The Prussian breech-loading needle gun was also a bogle working on the morale of the Austrian troops, although their own muzzle-loading rifle left them only slightly handicapped. Austria was, as usual, caught all along the line at a military disadvantage.

This is the semi-centennial year of the Schleswig-Holstein campaign, and in the literature brought out by it was a book of memoirs by an Austrian staff officer, who came back to Vienna from the front and was summoned to an interview with the Emperor. He had been cautioned by the adjutant general to be careful in what he said about the superiority of the Prussian small arms, but in his eagerness to open the Kaiser's mind he forgot himself and urged the equipment of the Austrian soldiers with a better rifle. Francis Joseph was annoyed and offended at this suggestion, dismissed the officer and had him sidetracked in the service.

In France in 1870 Moltke had an opponent of equally inferior quality. The French army was dead at the top, and though the soldiers were well armed and fought well the blunders of the leaders were pitiable. The German army at Mars-la-Tour could have been crushed by a capable French commander. But Bazaine was sluggish and incapable and took no advantage of the perilous situation of the German forces. In 1870-71 Germany met with no genuine opposition.

The case is entirely different now. The French, Belgian and British forces are nearly equal to those Germany is sending against France. The remarkable resistance made by the Belgians at Liège shows that the fighting quality of the allies cannot be disparaged. France is making war now as a nation, not depending upon a dead-and-alive standing army like that of Napoleon the Third. Moreover, Germany has a formidable enemy in the rear as well as in the front, since Austria-Hungary's strength is nothing like a set-off to that of Russia.

Germany has no such easy task ahead now as it had in 1864 against the Danes, as Prussia had against Austria-Hungary in 1866, or as united Germany had against France in 1870. The spectre of 4,000,000 Russians in arms on the eastern border will not down. The errors of diplomacy which have isolated Germany and Austria-Hungary and

are still operating to enlarge the circle of their enemies are irreparable.

Germany is fighting a life and death struggle against odds, and even its wonderful military machine may break down from overstrain. It will hardly do to count in this war upon the mere tradition of success created under highly favorable conditions by Bismarck and Moltke.

The Great Day at Panama.

Fuss and feathers have been notably lacking from the operations which went into the making of the Panama Canal. Things were done, and that was enough. So now it is altogether appropriate that the opening of the route to general traffic should come without any special blowing of trumpets.

The steamship Ancon, of the Panama Line, is scheduled to make the official trial trip to-day. Colonel Goethals and his aids are to be on board, and after their vessel has climbed up Gatun, passed through Culebra and down Pedro Miguel and Miraflores, the canal will be declared formally open to the commerce of the world. Thereupon the procession of ships over the backbone of the Americas will commence.

It is the great day for Panama, no matter how magnificent a spectacle the celebration of next year will be. The greatest achievement of American courage and skill has been finished, and its triumph stands for the ages. It is the happy lot of the engineer that his accomplishment is its own monument and song and story.

Old Age Has Its Way.

Amiable Mr. Wilding and canny Mr. Brookes got a fairly firm grip on the Davis Cup yesterday. It will require some luck and a mass of good tennis to break their hold to-day.

Strangely enough, it proved to be the youngster who showed the strain of that famous 17-15 set far more than did his elderly victim. The hand of Brookes had lost some of its cunning, but his was safe and sane tennis compared to the erratic tricks that McLoughlin's tired nerves played. To the veteran Bundy, on the American side of the net, belong the first honors of the day. He utterly routed his critics and fully justified his selection by the committee, playing as well as any man on the court and holding his speed dauntlessly in the face of disaster.

Altogether it was a day for the old heads and experienced hands, and demonstrated anew that in doubles, at any rate, you can come perilously close to forty and still rank with the best.

Better Do It Now.

Congress would guard against unpleasant possibilities if it should pass before the end of this session an emergency revenue law intended to raise about \$100,000,000 a year. If the war in Europe continues through the winter customs revenues are likely to fall off at least \$100,000,000. There is no great danger of a sudden cut, since at this port alone Collector Malone says that there are dutiable goods in bond valued at \$62,000,000. Importers will draw on this reserve for a month or two.

Moreover, the Treasury has collected since July 1 \$7,329,000 of income tax due before that date, and that back payment, together with the windfall from the sale of the battleships Idaho and Mississippi, has much more than overcome the shrinkage in customs and internal revenue receipts. Up to August 11 there was an excess of ordinary expenditures over ordinary receipts of only \$2,468,000, compared with an excess of \$10,187,000 on the same date in 1913.

The Treasury could worry along for a time. But a quick turn for the worse in September and October might prove psychologically depressing. It is better to insure against discouragement and criticism by providing ample revenue now. If the taxes on beer, whiskey and tobacco are increased and a few stamp taxes are imposed the country will not grumble. Such emergency legislation is easily repealable, and Congress will gladly drop the new taxes as soon as the European war is over.

Help the Red Cross Help Humanity.

To enable it to send doctors, nurses, medicines to each country involved in the great European conflict the American Red Cross is making a general appeal for funds. There should be a prompt and generous reply. Whatever may be the individual opinion as to the need or justification for war, there can be only one opinion about the splendid work of this organization, whose devoted agents tend the suffering, care for the wounded, aid the dying, without thought of race lines. It is a work for humanity.

The American Red Cross intends to send a hospital ship, sailing under the Red Cross flag, which will fully protect it, to each stricken country. Contributions may be made with the understanding that they will be devoted to the work in any specified country or for the general fund for this expedition. They may be sent to the American Red Cross at Washington, to state or local treasurers of the Red Cross, or The Tribune will forward to the proper authorities any contributions made in its care. Money could be devoted to no worthier cause.

A Victim of the Uplift.

The appointment of Jeremiah F. Connor as counsel to the Workmen's Compensation Commission must make George M. Palmer, once Democratic State Chairman, think the uplift is what General Sherman called war. Palmer was the chief victim of the uplift. When Governor Glynn started in to regenerate Democracy by a process painless to Tammany it became necessary to sidetrack Palmer, who was Murphy's rubber stamp. But Palmer declined to remove himself, and the Glynn uplifters didn't have the votes or the courage to endeavor to throw him out. Suddenly Palmer announced his resignation in a guileless statement in which he declared that "friends have suggested that I take the position of counsel to the Compensation Commission," which would leave him no time to be state chairman. The Compensation Commission at that time was not in existence. Ever since Palmer has been vainly seeking the consolation prize. Nobody but himself will grieve over the loss. A man who could so reveal the sawdust stuffing of the uplift was not much good to Governor Glynn and was manifestly not half clever enough for the manoeuvres of Murphy. Though another Murphy man got this job, the public can at least have the satisfaction that it was not used in payment of an uplift debt, and the additional satisfaction that an individual capable of Mr. Palmer's performances is not in the public service in any capacity.

The Conning Tower

Tennison to Norris Williams. However it be, it seems to me, This is about the way "looks: Kind hearts are more than Davids cups, And simple faith than Norman Brooks.

This, as you may not know, is Self-Denial Day. The United States of America, just to celebrate, may give up the Davis Cup.

THE HORRORS OF TENNIS. "Ah," she cried, "no good forebodes Those men from the Antipodes."

As to the Australians, as Mr. McLoughlin will have to admit, they also serve.

We are informed authoritatively, by E. D. G., that the baseball fan who kept yelling "Get to him, Mac!" at Thursday's tennis match was located in a tree outside the club grounds. Which helps somewhat, though our opinion stands that American audiences do not know the etiquette of applause.

THE DIARY OF OUR OWN SAMUEL PEPYS.

August 13—Up, and with Mistress Carita Spencer to Forest Hills, where we did have a fair luncheon, and so to the West Side Tennis Club, where were a great crowd to see Messrs. Brooks and Wilding to play our young lads; and Mr. Wilding did trounce young Dickie Williams, but Maurice McLoughlin beat Mr. Brooks, though he was hard put to it in the first set, which was the finest tennis battle ever I saw anywhere. Thence to my office, where all evening; and young Mr. Reuben Peterson to visit me, but grew weary of watching me work, so did leave by ten. So home, after a beaker of frosted chocolate, and to bed.

14—Up by times, and met again Mistress Carita, and we to Forest Hills early, and played there against S. Merwin and Mrs. Burns, and we beat them, too, what with the skill I did acquire by watching Mr. Wilding play. With S. Merwin to luncheon and again to the club; and saw Messrs. Wilding and Brooks beat Messrs. Bundy and McLoughlin; and meesemed Maurice did play worse than ever I had seen him, which near broke my heart, for Tom Bundy did play with great skill and strength; and I fear we shall lose the great silver bowl now; albeit what to do with it I would not know. Forasmuch as the cup that Louise Bailey and I did win last summer I do but use to put pigurie ashes into. To the city and all evening at my task.

"But when Strauss put the music to 'Pelleas and Melisande,'" writes Mary Garden in the American Magazine, "it became strong, intense, magnificent." Debussy's music, as G. E. K. suggests, had the same effect on "Salome."

THE GREAT DIVIDE

[From the Evening Post, page 10.] [From the Evening Post, page 3.] "Speaking as a neutral," says Mr. Dumas, according to the Times correspondent, "it seems to be a part of the new military tactics of the Germans to fight so much as possible in the night time. Comparatively little fighting occurred at Liège during the day."

It looks as though the sporting editors wouldn't get a chance to spring that "The Taming of Wilding" headline, after all.

THE PREP. SCHOOL OF SOCIAL BROOKLYN. [From the American.] Being fitted for entrance into Brooklyn society.

The disasters seem to be worse than "tong can tell."

*Staats-Zei.

Mr. Adams made a serious slip the other day when he attacked this satirical leaf ["Whom Are You? Said Cyril"] to this sentence by a distinguished author: "Critics in the orchestra were confiding to one another and to whomsoever cared to hear." If this had any point at all it signified that the captious critic would have said "to whoever cared to hear." There are more than a few persons who stand in such frantic fear of saying "me and him" in the wrong place that they invariably use the nominative, evidently under the impression that the nominative case is quite correct and elegant in all circumstances. So they will say: "It seemed so to me and I," or "they did it for he and I," although they might not go so far as to say that "it was done for we." Mr. Adams evidently has the obsession of the perpetual nominative. The portion of the phrase he criticized was equivalent to "to him who cared to hear." But P. A. A., like Cyril, might say: "to he who cared to hear."—P. H. Young in the Providence Journal.

We should not say "to he who cared to hear." But we should say "to whoever cared to hear," and so should the distinguished author we criticized.

WELL, SHE'S GOT A FINE DAY FOR IT. [From the Charleston News and Courier.] A RESPECTABLE COLORED WOMAN wants a place to wash. Can be found at 161 St. Philip street.

Herman F. Zink, we see be th' pa-pers—and Mr. F. P. Dunne is warned that Our Own Mr. Dooley will write a piece on the war if he doesn't— is running for alderman in Detroit, and the way the "News" is treating his candidacy you might almost think that it had the same kind of fire-proof waste basket we have.

Their Name Is Liegeon.

"Say, have you heard about the siege That raged around the walls of Liège?"

"I've heard of it, but you'll oblige Me if you still pronounce it 'Liege.'"

"Oh, pardon me, but, as in Fiji, The i is crossed, so call it Liège."

"I've heard the name used on the stage, And there they simply called it 'Liege.'"

"The Gallic style should have the edge, So why not split it into Liège?"

"Don't be so prejudiced, I beg; The Germans call it plain Liège."

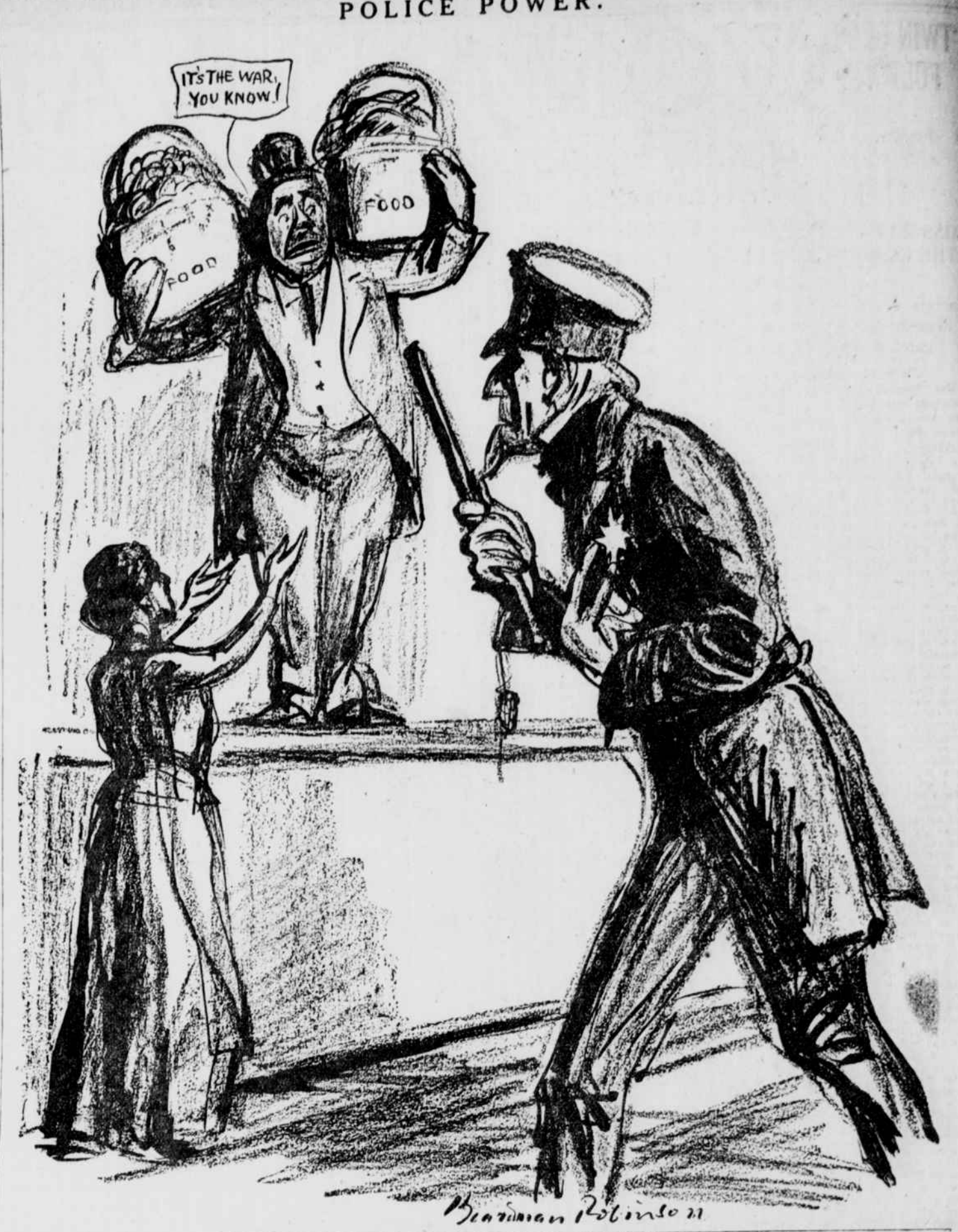
"Well, if you're trying to be cages, Why not pronounce it all—Liège?"

"You doobs will drive me crazy, Why'da Go bringing up a name like Liège?"

SIGMUND SPARTAN.

If Boston's rush continues, the McGravians dispatches will demand censorship.

How sweep the Braves who will not rest!



THE PEOPLE'S COLUMN An Open Forum for Public Debate.

POLITICIANS CAUSE WAR

And Then They Pose as Statesmen, at a Safe Distance, He Says.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: It is my earnest hope, notwithstanding the barring of newspaper correspondence from the scene of action, that through some means the awfulness of this strife and of war in general may be pictured in such vivid colors as to end all thought of another conflict between civilized nations. There are finer brands of patriotism than those shown in the shedding of human blood.

War is autocratic, not democratic, and I am not a socialist by any means. War is the work of politicians, both here and abroad, and a matter in which the people have no voice. This would be well enough if these gentry were to fight it out among themselves, like rival gangs, but they would not think of going to war, preferring to pose as statesmen at a safe distance from the seat of operations and to spend their time in dividing jobs and fat contracts among their followers. The poor victims of war are boys like yours and mine, boys eighteen to twenty-one years old, sent forth to be tangled up by thousands in barbed wire, while the guns tear them apart, to lie for hours, dying horrible deaths, and, dying, to be burned in heaps like offal. For what purpose? God knows. We cannot put a finger at Germany. Our wars with Mexico, with the South, with Spain, were all politicians' wars, without any reasonable excuse, and determined nothing but what could have been settled equally well without the shedding of blood or the spending of treasure.

God grant that the day may come when the people will take this matter into their own hands, and then war will cease. We will not be angels by any means, but just not a rousing howl go up against this impudent German action? But about the Essex not a word is said, and the United States quietly submits.

Brooklyn, Aug. 12, 1914.

MONARCHICAL ALLEGIANCE

An Illustration of What Americans Object To.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: The "Staats-Zeitung" this morning furnishes an apt though unconscious illustration of the point of view which, to its amazement and indignation, has elicited such unfavorable criticism from the American public and press. It says:

"The Austro-Hungarian army is filled with the spirit of devotion to the aged Emperor Francis Joseph, and their duty toward him takes precedence over everything else. And they are filled with the spirit of Archduke Francis Ferdinand, whom the scoundrels have shot down. The ghost of Francis Ferdinand extends his influence beyond the grave which could not bury it."

"The army corps is there. The land of the Hapsburgs is observing the faith of the Nibelungen and has stepped up to the side of the German friend and confederate with gleaming sword."

This is exactly the spirit to which we are opposed. Austria is not "the land of the Hapsburgs"; it is the land of the industrious and hard working Austrian people; Germany is not "the land of the Hohenzollerns"; it is the land of the great industrial German nation, who have our warmest sympathies. True, the murder of Francis Ferdinand was a dastardly outrage; so was the shooting of Gaylor or Roosevelt. But because Francis Ferdinand was a Hapsburg, and because the German na-

tion is "my" people, the German army "my" army and the German government "my" government, therefore Emperor William elected and unfortunately had the power to set twenty million men at each other's throats.

J. A. L.

New York, Aug. 12, 1914.

SORRY IF KAISER IS CRAZY

A Son of Wurzburg Would Join the Irish Volunteers.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Since the mobilization in Europe I have taken seven papers each for seven days. I have not seen anything favorable to Germany or the Kaiser, editorially or otherwise. You, of course, are included. I talked to my neighbors, and they of course say the Kaiser is crazy. If that is true I am so sorry and I am so glad it is not me. The only cheerful thing that I read was the unanimous resolution by the Irish Volunteers. If they care to take a part I will go with them if I am permitted and pay my own way.

I was born in Wurzburg and I am a retired police officer of New York City. FRANK N. EVANHOE.

Centre Moriches, Long Island, Aug. 12, 1914.

FOR BRITISH RELIEF FUND

An Englishman Appeals to His Countrymen to Contribute.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: The Prince of Wales fund for the relief of the families of British soldiers and sailors who have been called to the war has, I hear, already reached the sum of \$2,500,000, to which sum many Americans most generously contributed, among them being Alfred G. Vanderbilt, who not only subscribed \$5,000 but also presented his valuable horses—over sixty in number—for army purposes. There must be many thousands of patriotic British subjects in the United States who would, I am sure, be only too glad to donate money to this most excellent fund if they knew to whom to send their contributions.

The Columbia Trust Company, of 353 5th av., New York, has most kindly consented to receive all moneys donated to this fund and remit the same to London.

Trusting that my fellow countrymen will heartily respond to this appeal, I am, Sir, very respectfully, New York, Aug. 12, 1914.

WHAT ABOUT THE ESSEX?

Her Activities Outside the Harbor Called in Question.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: I read in your paper that H. M. S. Essex is outside of New York Harbor and stopping steamers from neutral nations before entering New York, shooting across their bows if they do not immediately stop.

May I ask what would England say if an American man-of-war were acting in the same capacity at the entrance to the Thames? I mean the harbor of London? Or worse, even, if a German man-of-war would act in the same capacity before the harbor of New York? Would not a rousing howl go up and protests be rushed to Washington against this impudent German action? But about the Essex not a word is said, and the United States quietly submits.

If the fortune of war should decide against Germany, its navy be destroyed and army crushed, thereby eliminating the present balance of power which

WHAT A BAKER IS UP AGAINST

His Supplies Are Rapidly Rising in Price.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: We have carefully read your article in to-day's Tribune headed "Housewives' League Seeks Help of District Attorney in Fight on Merchants." The part relative to the baker particularly interests us, and from the same we have drawn the following conclusions.

The sound of Mrs. Heath's axe swinging on the baker seems very nice and possibly is good reading to a person not familiar with this line of business; but it is unjust, worded in a deprecating way and not in conformity with the situation that confronts the bakers to-day.

Granted that the country has a bumper crop of wheat, and export sales have fallen off, and that flour has accumulated somewhere. But where is the flour, who is holding it, what reason can the flour jobbers give for asking the baker 25 per cent more than two weeks ago? You will have to go to somebody higher up than the baker for the answer.

Sugar has advanced over one cent a pound, meaning an increase of \$3.50 to \$5 a barrel. Go to the fountain source and inquire of the American Sugar Refining Company the cause of the raise. A few figures may be of value. The finished product ready to be sold to the customer costs the baker as follows: Materials, 65 to 66 per cent; manufacturing and selling salaries, overhead charges and other expenses, from 25 to 33.3 per cent. This leaves a balance of 12 1/2 to 20 per cent when materials are on a normal basis. Within the last two weeks materials have advanced throughout over 25 per cent, which eliminates the profit of even the best paying business—the net result being that the baker is forced to raise his prices or discontinue business.

We request that you give this communication the same publicity as to-day's item, not only as a protector to the baking trade from loose talk, but also as a statement of fact concerning the situation that confronts one of the most important industries of the United States.

ROTH & CLERCY.

By Harry H. Clercy.

West New Brighton, Aug. 12, 1914.

LET EDITORS BE SILENT

Wants President to Taboo Cause of War as Subject of Discussion.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: It would be well for the American people to keep their wits about them in these times that try men's souls. Mayor Mitchell has made a wise suggestion that all paraders carry only American flags, so as to give offence to no man; why take sides in it? Let us think of the fact that President Wilson issue a proclamation suggesting that all American editors refrain from commenting editorially on the cause of this war; that they refrain from placing the blame on any particular country or party; that they refrain from inflaming the minds of their readers against the citizens of any country with whom we are at peace, and that they refrain from printing news which is not reliable and which they know is unreliable.

We should hesitate before antagonizing the vast numbers of our German born citizens. In every crisis in the history of our government they have been tried and not found wanting. They are the most faithful, loyal and law-abiding citizens we have among us. What will it profit us if we embitter them now? This quarrel does not concern us; why take sides in it? Let us thank God that a vast ocean separates us from the conflict and let us pray that the time may soon come when the American nation, with malice toward none and friendship for all, can with outstretched arms say to all the combatants: Come, let us have peace.

PHILIP F. MALOY.

New York City, Aug. 8, 1914.

WHY SHOULD SUGAR RISE?

It Is Suggested That the Government Get After the Refiners.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: The price of another household necessity has gone up. Sugar at 7 cents a pound, or perhaps 8, means the formidable strengthening of the Sugar Trust's surplus coffers, the distribution of an extra dividend, and at the other extreme the commoner felled of some more scarce pennies. With most of our sugar coming from neutral countries and with our own soil yielding a plentiful supply, it is difficult to account for the rise without pointing the finger of shame at the rapacious few who control the situation.

Is the temperature of the Sugar Trust like that of the rank and file of the mob, which rises with that of their leader? With the price of commodities going up, there is no need for the sympathetic accompaniment of the sugar dispensers. They have sufficiently elevated themselves by their own locomotion without attempting to join the vanguard of those really justified in their course. Can the government do nothing? HENRY WENDELL.

New York, Aug. 13, 1914.